

News Summary

NYTimes WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1977 FEB 2 1977

International

President Carter told the Soviet envoy at their first meeting that the United States would not back down in its commitment for strengthened human rights in the Soviet Union and elsewhere. He called this a commitment on a position, not an attack on the Soviet Union. Plans for next month's resumption of strategic arms negotiations in Moscow took up most of the one-hour White House meeting. [Page A1, Cols. 1-2.]

A Montreal police slowdown over a contract dispute has been accompanied by a sharp rise in armed robberies and has confronted the separatist Parti Québécois with its first major labor crisis since coming to power in the province. Voter dissatisfaction with the previous Liberal government in dealing with labor agitation was a factor in the election victory by the separatist party. [A1:3.]

Heroin addiction is rising in Western Europe at a rate many experts consider alarming, along lines long familiar in the United States. Although international police cooperation has resulted in some spectacular seizures of heroin at airports, ample supplies are still reaching nightclubs, coffee bars, city squares and schools in many European countries. [A1:2.]

Olympic television rights to broadcast the 1980 Moscow games to the United States have been bought by the National Broadcasting Company for the highest price in history—\$35 million. Under the contract signed in Moscow, the International Olympic Committee will receive \$12,633,333 of this sum. NBC is expected to assume even higher costs for constructing technical facilities in Moscow. [A1:2-3.]

National

Theodore C. Sorensen's selection to be Director of Central Intelligence was not blocked but collapsed, according to

a reconstruction by New York Times reporters of events leading to his withdrawal. Above all there were misjudgments and an apparent failure of nerve by the incoming Carter Administration, which selected him evidently without thorough inquiry or consultation and then backed away from what could have been a narrow victory or partisan defeat. [A1:4-5.]

At least a dozen Western states expect drought this year as the entire Western United States experiences a winter much too warm and too dry. Preliminary data from the Department of Agriculture indicate snowfall at a record low in many areas, endangering next summer's water supplies throughout the West and crops, especially wheat, in the Great Plains states. [A1:4-5.]

The final episode of "Roots," the story of a black family's life during slavery, reached the largest television audience in American history, according to the National Nielsen Ratings. The ratings found that it had been watched on 51.1 percent of all television sets in homes and had reached a total of 80 million people, exceeding by 2.4 million the audience of the previous record-holder, the first portion of the broadcast of "Gone With The Wind." [16:1.]

Metropolitan

Buffalo's snow crisis eased with the first bright sun in a week and a drop in snow flurries as citizens bent to the task of digging out. The Erie County supervisor called the situation disastrous but said the city was "coping." Thousands of residents in the eastern part of the county remained isolated by snowdrifts. [A1:4-5.]

Governor Byrne presented a budget for New Jersey of a record total of \$4 billion, calling it frugal and complimenting it himself and the Legislature for tax reform and fiscal restraint. He said

the budget contained no new spending programs and would end sharp increases. [A1:1.]

Governor Carey asked the Legislature to form a fund to make good the \$5 million in money orders sold by a company that went bankrupt last month, as well as to protect users against future failures of this kind. [31:1-2.]

Business/Finance

The emergency natural gas bill was passed by the House of Representatives with an amendment limiting the prices interstate pipelines may pay for extra amounts. Since the Senate had rejected this amendment in passing the bill, it was uncertain which version would win, but it appeared that the legislation would go to President Carter in a day or two. A long-range development on gas supplies was the recommendation of a Federal Power Commission judge that the pipeline route through Canada's Mackenzie River valley be chosen to bring gas from Alaska's Prudhoe Bay to American consumers. [A1:6.]

Higher prices for tin mill products were announced by United States Steel Corporation, taking the lead in the long-expected move. It said the 4.8 percent increase would take effect March 13. The White House acknowledged that the company had discussed this action in advance with President Carter's advisers and said he was aware that the increase was lower than recent increases in steel prices. [39:3-5.]

Three nuclear-powered tankers may be built in the United States for Ravi Tikkoo, a British shipping magnate born in Kashmir. The deal has passed the letter-of-intent stage and will probably call for the three supertankers, the first to have nuclear power, to fly the American flag in order to qualify for an American subsidy. [39:6.]

Stock prices rallied mildly, with Dow Jones industrials rising 3.99 points to close at 958.36. [39:1-2.] Bond prices dropped and rates rose, with the Treasury selling \$3 billion of three-year notes at an average yield of 6.62 percent. [41:1-2.] Orange juice futures recorded more gains for early delivery while more distant contracts declined. [48:3-6.]

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Quotation of the Day

"The energy crisis is indivisible. What effects other parts of the country effects California. The steps are being taken because jobs are being lost and people are dying."—Robert Batinovich, president of California's Public Utilities Commission, explaining a State order to set thermostats at a maximum of 65 degrees in the daytime and 55 degrees at night, to enable the shipment of gas to the South and Middle West. [10:2.]

United Technologies reports 37% rise in earnings 49

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**The
Going Out
Guide**
 tells you what's
 in Monday through Thursday
 and Saturday, too, in
The New York Times